

The Sampler November 2009

From the
Pastor



A Generous People

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." When the man heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. **Mark 10:17-22**

During worship on Sunday, November 8, Time, Talent and Financial Pledges for 2010 will be dedicated. Unlike the requirement that Jesus had for the man in the scripture reading above, no one is expected to sell all they have and give it away. Everyone is highly encouraged to pledge a tithe of their income just as this congregation budgets at least 10% of the total each year to mission support through the Commitment and Witness Committee. We need to remember that all we do have comes from God and is not truly our own.

In the not-too-distant past, Stewardship just referred to giving money to the church. In this Green Age, Stewardship recognizes the responsibility each one of us have of caring for God's creation and using wisely the resources we have been given. Yes, monetary operating expenses must be met, but our gifts of time and talents are also very valuable. Leading the congregation in worship, singing in the choir, helping at Fellowship Meals, teaching Sunday School, playing a musical instrument, and participating on church committees are just a few of the many ways to share and serve in this particular church. Then there are all the ways to serve in the community, nation and world. Being a Good Steward means so much more than just giving money.

Money is important though, and this congregation does share generously. Romney Presbyterian is recognized by the PC(USA) as a Five for Five Congregation because Special Offerings are received for One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peacemaking, Joy, and Children's Thanksgiving during worship. In addition, the Youth Souper Bowl, Mother's/Father's Day, and Blanket Offerings are received on designated Sundays. Children Shoeboxes and Christmas Food Boxes are other areas of giving. Now, the challenge of Floating an Ark has been taken on by the church. Dottie has a job just keeping all this straight and going to the correct recipients!

Jesus said: "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded." **Luke 12:48** Not quite as specific as he said to the man who had many possessions, but a guide we all can follow. While it is true that we are blessed to be a blessing, pledging our Time, Talents and Treasure to the service of the Lord should just be a natural extension of keeping our focus on Jesus.

How easy it is to let parts of our life become habit, unthinking repetition. 'It's Sunday. Time to get up and dress up for church. Write a check for the offering. See friends. Eat a good meal. Rest away the afternoon.' All of these activities are important WHEN we do them with our hearts praising God. All the activities of every other day of the week are the same. Each day should begin with a shout of thanksgiving: "I am alive to live this day that the Lord has made. I will rejoice and be glad in it!"

I rejoice in being part of such a Generous People!

Pastor Barb

P.S. I would appreciate your prayers for my safe travels to and from Australia, November 11 and 25.

NEWS FROM THE SESSION

The session held its monthly meeting on Monday October 12, 2009. Attending this meeting were the Reverend Kevin Hand and Elder Scott Hammer, representatives of the presbytery's Committee on Ministry. Every three years, representatives from the Committee on Ministry visit with sessions to discuss the mission and ministry of the particular church and encourage participation of the sessions and congregations in the life and work of the presbytery. These triennial visits are mandated by the Book of Order and serve as a means to keep open communications between the churches and the committee. During the visit with Rev. Hand and Mr. Hammer, the session discussed the work, missions, and activities of the church. The session also had the opportunity to express any communications or requests to the Committee on Ministry or to the presbytery.

In addition, the session also:

- Learned that the youth would be conducting the Christmas Eve service.
- Learned that the Sunday School classes would be lighting the Advent candles.
- Learned that the Advent Devotionals had been ordered.
- Learned that the church telephone service had been updated.
- Received the proposed operating budget for 2010 for a first reading.
- Began the annual review of the membership rolls.
- Set the date for elder ordination and installation for Sunday January 3, 2010.

The following actions were taken:

- Approved \$6,000.00 to be pledged to the Presbytery of Shenandoah for the annual per capita assessment and Shared Mission Support of Presbytery in 2010.
- Approved designating the 4 cents a meal offering for October, November, and December 2009 for the Christmas Food Boxes mission.
- Received Diane and Gary Crane into active membership per transfer from Covenant Baptist Church.

Treasurer To Date Snapshot September 2009	
Total Income - \$7,413.00	Account Balances
Total Expenses - \$8,814.05	Money Market - \$13,253.26
Loss of Income - \$1,401.05	Now Account - \$30,387.78

Thank Offering: Afternoon and Evening Circle Ladies: The Thank Offering Service will be held Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. There will be no regular Afternoon Circle meeting since a joint circle will be held in the evening. We will sing hymns, join in prayer, and study Lesson 3 of "Joshua: A Journey of Faith" prior to giving our offering and enjoying refreshments. All circle members and friends are welcome to join us at Thank Offering.

Hospice of the Panhandle: Christmas "Light up a Life" envelopes are coming this month—check your mail and/or the church vestibule for order forms. "Light up a Life" is a special way to remember and honor loved ones during the holidays.



Memorial Gifts: In Memory of James Bonar from J. Sloan Bonar, Bladen Lowndes IV from Bill and Dot Calvert and Mary Compton Martin from Bill and Dot Calvert.

Hampshire County **Christmas Food Saturday, December 19.** We will be that Saturday morning. We know this is a this date on your calendar. We will be Please make your checks out to Romney Christmas Food Boxes. The committee worthwhile project.



Box Program distribution day will be happy to have any volunteers to help out on change from previous years but please mark accepting any monetary donations now. Presbyterian but footnote the check for thanks all who will be participating with this

Spotlight on Youth: Bailey Virginia Coleman

Bailey Coleman, daughter of Michael and Sheri Coleman, may be a new voice in the Romney Presbyterian Church Adult Choir, but she is not new to singing. Bailey, a 15-year-old freshman at Hampshire High School, has been singing since she was a bit over a year old; she has been singing in the Church Youth Choir since she was 4. She is truly a musical artist at in Harmony, but also a flutist in two Marching Band and Concert Band. noteworthy—Bailey performed in “Beast” at McCoy Theater in Potomac State College; this past in the GFWC’s production of “That’s “Popular” from “Wicked” and “Till Man” were absolutely beautiful. In opportunity to see her play a at Potomac State College. Moreover, world of music—this summer she won top honors in the 4-H State Horticulture competition and the 4-H State demonstration on Food and Nutrition. She is presently vying for honors in the National judging in Harrisburg, PA. Last year she was actively involved in the RAZE program and the DARE program at her school. Hats off to Bailey—we are truly blessed to have such a bright young star at Romney Presbyterian Church.



Hampshire High where she is not only bands—Hampshire High School Her theatrical talents are even more “Little Women” and “Beauty and the Moorefield and “Wizard of Oz” at September she was the bright new star Entertainment.” Bailey’s solos There Was You” from “The Music March 2010, we will have the character role in “Beauty and the Beast” Bailey does not limit herself to the

If you have any **BOX TOPS for EDUCATION**, Campbell’s Soup Labels, Tyson UPC’s or other collectible items for schools, you can turn them in to Alana Hartman, Gayle Allen or Karena Dolly. If you have any questions contact Alana Hartman 304-822-5608.

Romney Presbyterian Advent Celebration

Everyone is invited to the annual Advent Celebration on Sunday, November 29, 2009. We will make decorations, decorate the Christmas tree in Fellowship Hall, eat, and have fun! The Celebration will be held from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite snack food. The Christian Education Committee will provide drinks, paper products, and pizza.

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Ministry



IT’S TIME TO THINK ABOUT FILLING YOUR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOXES! On Sunday, November 15, Romney Church will be dedicating the Christmas Shoeboxes for Samaritan’s Purse. Every shoe box is a Gospel opportunity. Each year millions of children are given the shoe box gifts. These tangible expressions of God’s love and the love shown by the people who give these boxes, open doors to local churches around the world to share the true meaning of Christmas—God’s gift of His Son, Jesus. Along with the shoe box, children receive a 12-part Bible study booklet that explains the Gospel and invites them to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. There are ways to be involved with Operation Christmas Child: 1) Pray; 2) Pack a box; 3) Give a monetary donation of \$7 to cover the shipping costs of a box; or lastly 4) consider helping at one of the distribution locations. This is one of the largest Christmas gift mission project in the world, and it is possible only through God’s power and grace. John 14:13

Heifer Is Here! The Ark is Being Built!



LaRue and Homer Cornish gave a wonderful presentation about Heifer International at the Fellowship Dinner on October 18. Gennie Heatwole, Moderator of Romney Presbyterian Women, invited the Cornishes to speak. The Presbyterian Women gave the first donation to the church-wide project in honor of Madeline Blue. Regular updates about the Ark's 'construction' will appear in the coming Samplers.

At the beginning of October, the Presbyterian Women gave a challenge to Romney church to embrace a long-range, on-going project with Heifer International. To involve the children, cows (heifers) were placed around the church with the slogan "Heifer is Coming." Well, "Heifer is Here!" Many children participated in the searching game, looking around the church for the little cows. We would like to thank all children who filled out their sheets and hope they enjoyed their surprises. Mrs. Mason

Total collected as of October 25th -- \$400.00



Heifer Project Ark

Romney Presbyterian Church
100 West Rosemary Lane
Romney, WV 26757-1632

Non-Profit Organization
U.S.POSTAGE PAID – Permit #12
Romney, WV 26757



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Return Service Requested